

This Congress has repeatedly passed legislation promoting Taiwan's meaningful participation in the WHO, and I am encouraged to see these efforts finally come to fruition. I am especially pleased that this development comes in the context of steady improvement in relations between Taipei and Beijing, and I applaud officials on both sides of the Taiwan Strait for their efforts to pursue peace and stability in the region.

I look forward to increased cooperation among Taiwan, the United States, and other members of the international community to share public health information and guard against global pandemics.

#### TRIBUTE TO MONSIGNOR WILLIAM KERR

#### HON. JASON ALTMIRE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 18, 2009*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the incredible life of a truly great man, Monsignor William Kerr, who died last week at the age of 68. Monsignor Kerr was known, respected and loved throughout the world and his loss will be felt around the globe.

His professional life began as a parish priest in his hometown of St. Louis, and ended as Executive Director of the Claude Pepper Center for International Dialogue in Tallahassee, Florida. In between, he spent his entire career traveling the world working for peace, fighting for human rights, and promoting education and diplomacy.

He spent the majority of his professional life in Pittsburgh, Washington, DC, and Tallahassee, home of his beloved Florida State University, where he received multiple degrees and spent the early part of his career as an adjunct faculty member and an instructor of history, in addition to his position as Catholic Campus Minister.

Throughout his life, Monsignor Kerr traveled the globe to carry out his true callings of spiritual ministry and education. His travels gave him the opportunity to meet and befriend countless dignitaries, and to advance the cause for which he dedicated his life, human rights.

He served as a vice president at Catholic University here in Washington, DC, and as president of La Roche College in McCandless, Pennsylvania.

It was at La Roche College that I first met Monsignor Kerr. As a Trustee at La Roche, I worked closely with him and witnessed firsthand his love of education and the ease with which he interacted with people, whether they be Heads of State or freshman students.

During his twelve years as president of La Roche College he created programs to educate future leaders and assist students from war-ravaged countries to get an American education. The Pacem in Terris Institute, which he created at La Roche, established a scholarship program for outstanding college age men and women from conflict and post-conflict nations, such as Bosnia and Rwanda. The students would receive an education at

La Roche to study leadership and diplomacy in return for their agreeing to return to their home country after graduation to help rebuild their nations. In all, 450 students from 21 countries received scholarships. This program fulfilled Monsignor Kerr's dream of educating the future leaders of developing regions as a way to stem conflict and promote peace.

Through this program he developed a lifelong friendship with many world leaders and throughout his life he cultivated a wide and eclectic network of friends and colleagues. And while he was comfortable hosting high profile dignitaries, Monsignor Kerr was at his best when he was among the students that he loved. It seemed that he knew the names and life details of every student he encountered during his daily walks across campus, and he could often be seen sharing laughter and camaraderie with groups of students in between their classes.

After leaving La Roche College in 2004, he returned to Washington, DC, to become the director of the Pope John Paul II Center, where he stayed until returning to Tallahassee to lead the Claude Pepper Center.

Through it all he maintained his commitment to spiritual leadership, and he continued to celebrate mass. And it was during his celebration of mass at the Co-Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Tallahassee that he suffered the stroke that claimed his life at the age of 68.

I count myself fortunate to be one of the many that have had the opportunity to know and work with Monsignor William Kerr. He had a profound impact on my life as he did the lives of nearly everyone he encountered. His like will not be seen again, and he will be deeply missed.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 234, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2009

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 14, 2009*

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note that the rule and the process leading to its presentation are flawed and consequently, the underlying bill does not adequately serve our military forces or the taxpayers of this country.

Since 2002, billions of dollars have been given to the Pakistan military and much of that amount has not been accounted for.

Pakistani military commanders continue to consider certain extremists as their "strategic assets" in their seemingly never-ending security concerns involving fears about India; and the Pakistani military continues to fail to give proper attention to Pakistan's existential threat—the very extremists who associate with and harbor Al Qaeda and are also a threat to Afghanistan, our forces in Afghanistan, and others throughout the world.

I proposed, with a number of colleagues, and believe the bill must be improved by, an amendment establishing enforceable benchmarks on U.S. military assistance to Pakistan that would lead to the articulation of reasonable expectations.

Functionally, the amendment requires that the President make reasonable determinations about the state of mutual security objectives of Pakistan and the United States before any remainder of the military assistance for Pakistan can be obligated.

It does not seek to condition any civilian assistance to Pakistan. The American people and its government are the friends of Pakistan and its people, and we fully understand the crisis nature of the economy and civil governance status. The assistance in any measure should certainly be accounted for, and should be put to effect in such a way as to ensure it maximizes benefit to the Pakistani people. America is making a long term commitment to Pakistan, its democracy and its future prosperity.

Nevertheless, with respect to military funding, specifically, the amendment requires determinations on Pakistan—through its military—to make concerted progress toward:

- (1) Ceasing of all support to groups presenting cross-border terrorist threats,
- (2) Dismantling training facilities for such groups across Pakistan,
- (3) Preventing and disrupting cross-border attacks,
- (4) Strengthening and increasing counterterrorism prosecutions and extraditions,
- (5) Degrading such groups' radio broadcast infrastructure, and
- (6) Extending Pakistan's legitimate governmental writ across its territory and the protection of all its citizens' civil and human rights without discrimination.

As an oversight forcing function, the amendment requires written justification of the President's determinations and also tasks the U.S. Government Accountability Office with providing an independent analysis of the categories requiring Presidential determination.

Additionally, the amendment includes language allowing the President to waive the requirement if such action is certified to be vital to the national security interests of the United States. Finally, there is in the amendment a process for Congress to disprove of such certification if in its judgment such action is appropriate.

We must stop just handing out cash slush funds only to witness conduct not conducive to both nations' national security.

We have a right to expect that dangerous suspected terrorists will not just be set free as has reportedly happened with the Pakistani military's complicity; and a right to expect accountability for the hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars that should be targeted to effective security for our troops in Afghanistan and people here at home.

We must ensure resources are focused on Pakistan's and America's common security interests and the only really verifiable way to have that occur is to condition any funds sent to the Pakistani military in the way set forth in the proposed amendment.

For too long our military, and our government, have dealt directly with the Pakistani military and ignored the civilian government empowering their military to circumvent democratic accountability and hindering our ability to account for our investment. The way to resolve matters in Afghanistan relies heavily on circumstances in Pakistan. The situation in Pakistan cries out for accountability if we are to successfully protect our security.